

THE VOICE OF THE ORIENT

to the river together ? Where the
brahman
boy, with the refined face and long
black eye-
lashes beneath the white brow mark
of Shiva,
stood in the water waiting to
receive you,
where I, though your child, in my
mlenchcha's
body, could not come. Then
afterwards you
passed in your white silk draperies
bordered
with vermillion, through the winding
way to
the Bisheshwar,* where the emerald
parrots
jewelled the golden dome of Shiva's
holiest
temple, where the brass trays outside
are heaped
high with the orange tubes and snowy
stars of
Shiva's toilet flower, the Hara
Shringara, the
royal blue velvet slippers of the
Aparagita, which
means the invincible, and whose
vines make
the bangle worn the tenth day after
Durga -f-
Puja, and the flamingo tints of the
Karavira, one
of the eight flowers which must be
offered to
Durga the eighth day of the month of
Ashvina.
Shall we ever forget that first
dinner we
took together ? When, after the
spicy herb
dishes and creamy sweets were duly
despatched,

* Temple of « The Lord of the Universe."
t The female aspect of Shiva. t Worship.
§ Betel nut.

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